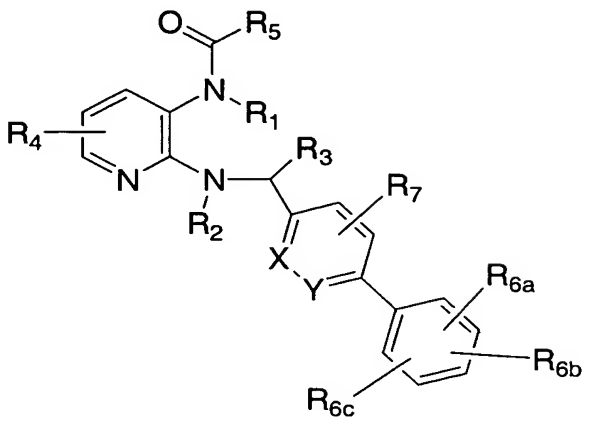
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I:



I

wherein

X and Y are each CH, or one is CH and the other is N;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from

(1) hydrogen and

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_3 is selected from

(1) hydrogen, and

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups selected from halogen, CO_2R^a, OR^a, COR^a and cyano;

R_4 is selected from

(1) hydrogen,

(2) nitro,

(3) halogen,

(4) $(CH_2)_nOR^a$,

(5) $(CH_2)_nCO_2R^a$,

(6) $(CH_2)_nCN$,

(7) $(CH_2)_nNR^bR^c$,

(8) $(CH_2)_nNHC(O)CH_2CN$,

(9) $CONR^bR^c$, and

(10) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_5 is a heterocycle selected from tetrahydrofuranyl, 2-oxo-4-azetidinyl, and a heteroaryl optionally substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl wherein said heteroaryl is selected from isoxazolyl, furyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, thienyl and oxazolyl;

R_{6a} is selected from

(1) C_{1-8} alkyl, optionally substituted with 1 to 5 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, COR^a, SO_2R^d, CO_2R^a, NR^bR^c, $NR^bC(O)R^a$, $NHSO_2R^d$, OR^a, $OC(O)R^a$, $CONR^bR^c$,

(2) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl,

(3) C_{2-8} alkenyl optionally substituted with CO_2R^a;

(4) halogen,

(5) OCF_3,

(6) cyano,

(7) nitro,

(8) NR^bR^c,

(9) $NR^bC(O)R^a$,

(10) $NR^bCO_2R^{a'}$, wherein $R^{a'}$ is a non-hydrogen group selected from R^a,

(11) CO_2R^a,

(12) COR^a,

(13) $C(O)NR^bR^c$,

(14) $C(O)NHOR^a$,

(15) OR^a,

(16) $OC(O)R^a$,

(17) $S(O)_nR^{a'}$, wherein $R^{a'}$ is a non-hydrogen group selected from R^a,

(18) SO_2NHR^c,

(19) $NHSO_2R^d$,

(20) $C(=NOR^a)NR^bR^c$,

(21) $C(=NOR^a)R^a$, and

(22) substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle where the heterocycle is selected from oxadiazole, tetrazole, triazole, pyrazole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiazole,

4,5-dihydro-oxazole, 4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-one, and wherein said substituent is 1 to 3 groups independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, OR^a, or $OC(O)R^a$;

R_{6b} and R_{6c} are independently selected from

(1) hydrogen, and

(2) a group from R_{6a}; with the proviso that not more than one of R_{6a}, R_{6b}, and R_{6c} is a heterocycle;

R_7 is selected from

(1) hydrogen,

(2) cyano,

(3) nitro,

(4) halogen,

(5) OR^a,

(6) CO_2R^a,

(7) $CONR^bR^c$, and

(8) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^a is selected from

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl,

(3) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl,

(4) aryl, and

(5) aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^b and R^c are independently selected from

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with OR^a,

(3) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl,

(4) aryl, and

(5) aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl; or

R^b and R^c together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered ring optionally containing a heteroatom selected from NR^a, O and S;

R^d is selected from

(1) C_{1-4} alkyl, optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms,

(2) aryl,

(3) aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl, and

(4) NR^bR^c;

n is 0, 1 or 2
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_3 is hydrogen.

3. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl.

4. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_4 is H or a 4-substituent.

5. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_4 is H or a 4-substituent selected from C_{1-4} alkyl and halogen.

6. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_4 is 4-chloro or 4-methyl.

7. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_5 is selected from 4-thiazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 5-, 4- and 3-isoxazolyl, 3-, 4- and 5-isothiazolyl, 2- and 3-furyl, 2- and 3-thienyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 5-methyl-3-isoxazolyl, 2-methyl-3-furyl, 5-methyl-4-oxazolyl, 5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl, 2-tetrahydrofuranyl, and 2-oxo-4-azetidinyl.

8. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_5 is 2-oxo-4-azetidinyl, optionally methyl substituted 5- or 3-isoxazolyl, 3-furyl or 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl.

9. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_5 is 3- or 5-isoxazolyl.

10. A compound of Claim 1 wherein X and Y are both CH.

11. A compound of Claim 1 wherein one of X and Y is CH and the other is N.

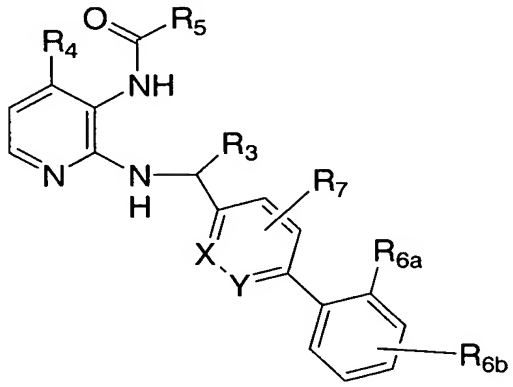
12. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_{6a} is a 2- (or ortho-) substituent selected from CO_2R^a, $CONR^bR^c$, $CONHOR^a$, cyano, and 1- and 2-methyltetrazol-5-yl.

13. A compound of Claim 12 wherein R_{6a} is selected from methyl carboxylate, N-methylcarboxamide, cyano and 1- and 2-methyltetrazol-5-yl.

14. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_{6b} is hydrogen, halogen or C_{1-4}alkyl.

15. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_{6b} is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, or methyl.

16. A compound of Claim 1 having the formula Ia:



Ia

wherein R_3, R_4, R_5, R_{6a}, R_{6b}, R_7, X and Y are as defined in Claim 1.

17. A compound of Claim 16 wherein at least two of R_3, R_4 and R_{6b} are non-hydrogen.

18. A compound of Claim 16 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl and R_{6b} is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

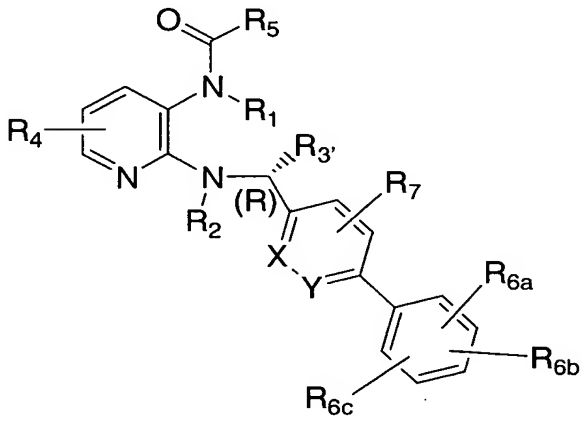
19. A compound of Claim 16 wherein R_4 is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen and R_{6b} is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

20. A compound of Claim 16 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl and R_4 is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

21. A compound of Claim 16 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl, R_4 is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen and R_{6b} is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

22. A compound of Claim 16 wherein R_3 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl; R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen; R_{6a} is selected from CO_2R^a, $CONR^bR^c$, cyano, 1- and 2-methyltetrazol-5-yl; R_{6b} is hydrogen, or a 3- or 5-substituent selected from C_{1-4}alkyl and halogen; X and Y are each CH and R_7 is hydrogen, halogen or C_{1-4} alkyl; or one of X and Y is CH and the other is N, and R_7 is hydrogen; with the proviso that at lease two of R_3, R_4 and R_{6b} are non-hydrogen.

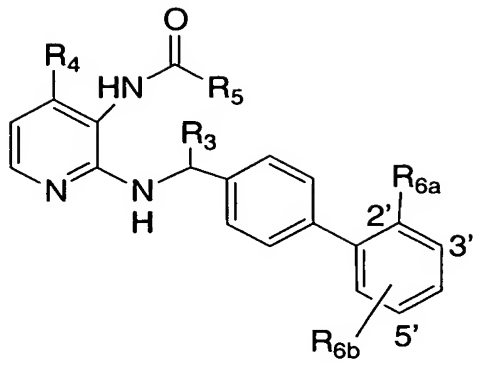
23 A compound of Claim 1 represented by formula Ib:

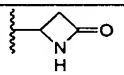


Ib

wherein all the variables are as defined in Claim 1 and R_3' is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups selected from halogen, CO_2R^a, OR^a, COR^a and cyano.

24. A compound selected from:



R6a	R6b	R3	R4	R5
CO_2Me	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	5-isoxazolyl
2-Me-2H-tetrazol-5-yl	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Cl	5-isoxazolyl
2-Me-2H-tetrazol-5-yl	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	5-isoxazolyl
CONHMe	2'-F	Me (*R*)	Cl	5-isoxazolyl
CN	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	5-isoxazolyl
CO_2Me	3'-Cl	Me (*R*)	Cl	5-isoxazolyl
CN	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Cl	5-isoxazolyl
CONHMe	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	5-isoxazolyl
CO_2Me	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Cl	5-isoxazolyl
CO_2Me	3'-Cl	Me (*R*)	Me	5-isoxazolyl
CO_2Me	3'-F	Me (*R*)	H	
CO_2Me	3'-Cl	Me (*R*)	Cl	3-isoxazolyl
CO_2Me	5'-Me	Me (*R*)	Me	3-isoxazolyl
CO_2Me	5'-Cl	Me (*R*)	Me	3-furyl
CO_2Me	3'-Cl	Me (*R*)	H	3-isoxazolyl
1-Me-1H-tetrazol-5-yl	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Cl	5-isoxazolyl
CO_2Me	5'-Me	Me (*R*)	Me	3-furyl
CN	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	3-furyl
CN	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl
CN	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	3-isothiazolyl
CONHOMe	H	H	Me	3-furyl
CO_2Me	H	H	Me	5-Me-3-isoxazolyl

R_{6a}	R_{6b}	R_3	R_4	R_5
CO_2Me	H	H	H	3-furyl
CN	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	4-thiazolyl
CN	3'-F	Me (*R*)	Me	2-imidazolyl
CO_2Me	H	H	H	2-thienyl
CO_2Me	H	H	H	3-thienyl
CO_2Me	H	H	H	2-furyl
CO_2Me	H	H	H	2-tetrahydrofuranyl
CO_2Me	H	H	Me	2-methyl-3-furyl
CO_2Me	H	H	Me	5-methyl-4-oxazolyl
CO_2Me	H	H	Me	5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl

25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. A method of treatment or prevention of pain and inflammation comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. A method of treatment of osteoarthritis, repetitive motion pain, dental pain, cancer pain, myofascial pain, muscular injury pain, fibromyalgia pain, perioperative pain comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. A method of treatment or prevention of inflammatory pain caused by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease, rhinitis, pancreatitis, cystitis (interstitial cystitis), uveitis, inflammatory skin disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, edema resulting from trauma associated with burns, sprains or fracture, postsurgical intervention, osteoarthritis, rheumatic disease, teno-synovitis, or gout comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment or

prevention, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. A method of treatment or prevention of pain associated with angina, menstruation or cancer comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. A method of treatment of diabetic vasculopathy, post capillary resistance, diabetic symptoms associated with insulitis, psoriasis, eczema, spasms of the gastrointestinal tract or uterus, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or pancreatitis comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. A method of treatment or prevention of pain caused by pneumoconiosis, including aluminosis, anthracosis, asbestosis, chalicosis, ptilosis, siderosis, silicosis, tabacosis, byssinosis, adult respiratory distress syndrome, bronchitis, allergic rhinitis, vasomotor rhinitis, liver disease, multiple sclerosis, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, septic shock, cerebral edema, headache, migraine, closed head trauma, irritable bowel syndrome, or nephritis comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment or prevention of pain, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.